



March 2006

Proactive Mailings and Press Clips



Congressman Rob Simmons

Enclosures:

- Letter sent proactively to constituents supporting “Operation Iraqi Freedom”
 - o Related news article attached
- Letter sent proactively to constituents supporting border security
 - o Related news article attached
- Letter sent proactively to constituents regarding secured local funding
 - o Related news article attached
- Best Practices document providing additional information

Staff Contact:

- John Goodwin with Congressman Simmons, 225-2076
- Alisha Perkins with Congressman Doolittle, 225-2511
- Katie Strand with Chairman Pryce, 226-9000

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~city~, ~statelong~ ~zip~

Dear ~salutation1~:

Knowing your interest in Operation Iraqi Freedom, I wanted to share with you a recent news article from the *New London Day*. I hope you find it informative.

I have always been committed to seeing our troops return home safely, successfully, and soon.

My recent trip to Iraq has made it clear to me that our efforts in that country are generating positive results -- results that bring us one step closer to the successful conclusion of our mission.

Thank you for taking the time to read this update. Should you have any questions or concerns about this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact me again. Also feel free to visit my website at www.house.gov/simmons.

All the best,

Rob Simmons
Member of Congress
Second District, Connecticut

The Day

Simmons Buoyed By Iraqi Police Progress

Congressman Equates Security Buildup With U.S. Troop Reduction

By **IZASKUN E. LARRANETA**

Day Staff Writer, Courts/Social Services

Published on 1/17/2006

Norwich — U.S. Rep. Rob Simmons, R-2nd District, said Monday that Iraqi military police are making great strides in handling the country's security, a trend that he predicted will lead to a reduction in the number of U.S. soldiers there.

"The time has come for the Iraqis to assume responsibility for their country, and that is taking place," Simmons said during a press conference at his district office here. "That's a welcomed development. I had no idea that this was happening."

Simmons and other members of a bipartisan congressional delegation traveled last week to Iraq, where they spent time in Baghdad and Mosul. They also visited injured American soldiers at a hospital in Ramstein, Germany.

Simmons said he met with an Iraqi lieutenant colonel who told him that his forces would take over an operational area in Mosul later this month.

"We are now ready," Simmons said the man told him.

By the end of January, more than 2,000 Army military police will be assigned to work side-by-side with Iraqi police officers, Simmons said he was told. He said military officials are calling 2006 the "year of the police." So far, there are about 118,000 trained and equipped Iraqi security forces.

Simmons called pairing U.S. military police with Iraqis the "best of both worlds." He said the Iraqis are best suited to enter their own neighborhoods, with U.S. soldiers providing backup if needed.

Simmons also said women are being trained to become police officers. Currently, about 585 women are police, wearing uniforms instead of veils, he said.

"By the end of the year, 50 to 75 percent of Iraq's military units will be in charge of areas of operation," he said.

Simmons visited Iraq about 2 1/2 years ago and said at that time a major issue was the armoring of U.S. military vehicles. He said that on his most recent visit he was pleased to see that 95 percent of all Humvees and trucks were equipped with adequate armor.

But he said he was disappointed to see that body armor was still sorely lacking. Under-arm and shoulder armor is not readily available to soldiers, and that is completely unacceptable, he said.

"The Pentagon procurement system is not delivering the goods," Simmons said. "There is no excuse for that."

Simmons plans to report this finding and vowed to personally work to ensure that soldiers are better equipped.

Simmons said that while visiting with soldiers, he noticed high morale and a belief that their work was important to ensure peace.

One soldier told him it would be a "waste" if the government withdrew the more than 100,000 soldiers in Iraq, he said.

Simmons said any proposal for an immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops is "a plan for failure." He also would not support deploying more troops to Iraq, he said.

"We need a timeline, not a deadline," Simmons said. "... I have no idea how long our troops will stay there. Anybody who makes that judgment is guessing."

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~city~, ~statelong~ ~zip~

Dear ~salutation1~:

Knowing your support for strengthening our borders against illegal immigration, I wanted to update you on recent congressional action on the issue.

In an effort to fix our nation's broken immigration system, on Dec. 16 the House of Representatives passed H.R. 4437, the "Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005" by a vote of 260 to 159. You will be pleased to know that I voted in favor of this legislation.

This border security and immigration bill would add more fences, guards and military technology to the Mexican border and require employers to check their workers' immigration status. I've included a list of the highlights of the border security bill on the back of this immigration update.

While this legislation isn't a perfect solution, I do believe it is an important first step toward making our borders more secure. The legislation now moves to the U.S. Senate for its consideration.

I have attached a summary of the legislation from *CQ Weekly*. I hope you find it informative.

Thanks for taking the time to read this update. Should you have any questions or concerns about this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact my office. Also feel free to visit my website at www.house.gov/simmons.

All the best,

Rob Simmons
Member of Congress
Second District, Connecticut



CQ WEEKLY - WEEKLY REPORT
Dec. 26, 2005

Highlights of Border Security Bill

By Alex Wayne, CQ Staff

Border plan: Requires the government to create a comprehensive border security strategy. Within six months, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) would be required to create a plan for surveillance of the U.S. borders. Within one year, the DHS would have to create the complete border security plan.

Military equipment: Requires the DHS and the Defense Department to submit a plan within six months to use military surveillance equipment, such as unmanned aerial drones, for border security.

Police and jails: Authorizes spending for 2,000 new border patrol agents per year from fiscal 2007 through 2010. Authorizes spending for 8,000 new beds per year over the same period for detaining apprehended illegal immigrants.

Mandatory detention: Ends a policy critics call "catch-and-release" that has allowed apprehended illegals to be released with a promise that they would show up for deportation hearings. Requires by Oct. 1, 2006, that the people apprehended be detained until they are deported.

Cargo screening: Requires that radiation detectors be installed at all points of entry and that all cargo bound for the United States be screened for nuclear or radiological materials.

"Other than Mexicans": Enables authorities to more easily deport illegals who are not from countries contiguous with the United States and who are apprehended within 100 miles of the border.

Employment eligibility: Mandates use of a system called "Basic Pilot" that enables companies to screen employees' Social Security and foreign identification numbers with the DHS. The mandatory system would be implemented in phases, with all employers participating within six years.

Illegal immigrant smuggling: Makes it a crime to assist, encourage, direct or induce people to enter or remain in the country "knowing or in reckless disregard" of the fact that they are illegal immigrants. Also makes it a crime to transport such people into or within the country or conceal them from authorities.

Illegal presence: Living in the country illegally would be a crime comparable with an illegal border crossing. Both would be punishable by 366 days in prison. It is currently a civil, not a criminal, violation to reside in the country illegally.

Visa diversity lottery: Would eliminate the lottery, which provides about 50,000 permanent residency visas a year to people selected randomly from countries that are considered to be under-represented in the U.S. immigrant flow. Many lawmakers of both parties believe the lottery is a security threat, susceptible to fraud and discriminates against people who must rely on work or family connections to win residency visas.

Border fence: Requires the DHS to construct a double security fence — accompanied by access roads, cameras and sensors — across several portions of the Mexican border. Fences would be built from Calexico, Calif., along most of the Arizona border; around Tecate, Calif., and El Paso, Texas; from Del Rio, Texas, to Eagle Pass, Texas, and from Laredo, Texas, to Brownsville, Texas.

Oath of renunciation: Would codify the Oath of Renunciation and Allegiance as federal law, so that only Congress could change it, and would require the State Department to notify foreign embassies when their citizens renounce their citizenship and pledge allegiance to the United States.

Local law enforcement: Would encourage local police to help enforce immigration law, and would withhold federal money from state and local governments that maintain policies preventing their police from reporting illegal immigrants to federal authorities or assisting in enforcement.

Terrorists and gangs: Would make it easier to deport illegal immigrants identified as terrorists and would explicitly bar them from becoming citizens. Would allow the DHS to designate groups as criminal gangs and make it easier for their members to be detained and deported.

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Dear ~salutation1~:

As a resident of Clinton, I wanted to update you on my recent work in Congress.

As your Congressman, I was able to include \$321,000 for projects in Clinton in legislation that was recently passed by Congress and signed into law. This money will be used for the dredging of Clinton Harbor at Cedar Island Marina and to update the community's emergency response communications system.

Rest assured, I know how important such projects are to local communities, and I will continue to fight to bring this federal money home to Connecticut.

I have attached a news article from the *New London Day* for your review (on back). I hope you find it informative.

Thanks for taking the time to read this update. Should you have any questions or concerns about this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact my office. Also feel free to visit my website at www.house.gov/simmons.

All the best,

Rob Simmons
Member of Congress
Second District, Connecticut

The Day

Clinton Receives \$321,000 in Federal Funds

By FAY ABRAHAMSSON
Published on 12/1/2005

Clinton - With a bit of political fanfare, Congressman Rob Simmons (R-2nd District), swept into the rotunda at the Andrews Memorial Town Hall on Nov. 14 and presented a check for \$321,000 to First Selectman James McCusker, Jr. and First Selectman-elect William "Willie" Fritz, Jr.

The money is earmarked for two projects: \$225,000 for the dredging of Clinton Harbor at Cedar Island Marina and \$96,000 to update the town's emergency response communications system.

All in all, it was a good day for Clinton.

"These are two key projects that will enhance the quality of life for the residents of Clinton," said Simmons, as he spoke to a gathering of about 30 people. "By maintaining the harbor we ensure the safety of recreational and commercial boaters. By updating the emergency communication system, we improve the capability of the town's first responders to protect lives and property."

Simmons said that he expects the Senate to grant final approval of the money this week and expects President Bush to sign it before Thanksgiving.

"I am proud to have worked with Senators Dodd and Lieberman in securing critical funding for these important local projects," said the Congressman. "I am pleased to have been able to shepherd these projects through to their passage by the full House of Representatives."

Tom McClure, an employee of Cedar Island Marina for 25 years, said that the actual dredging job will take less than a month, but the process to get the funding for it has taken more than 10 years.

"We are always looking for ways to get funding," said McClure, who estimates the cost of dredging to be between \$1.7 and \$2 million.

According to McClure, the Army Corp of Engineers is responsible for the mile-long channel. The Corp, along with the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Parks Department, hopefully will cost-share the project and get it done.

"The rest of the money needs to be available in the 2006 budget," said McClure. The dredging will involve moving sand from the harbor back to where it belongs: the beach.

"The federal government calls it 'beneficial re-use,'" said McClure. "Everyone wins. The government doesn't have to pay for all of it, the state gets their beach, and the town gets a deep water harbor."

First Selectman James McCusker said the funds for the dredging are the result of many years of work by Rep. Simmons and U.S. Senators Joseph Lieberman and Christopher Dodd.

"Jeff Shapiro of Cedar Island Marina, and his staff, deserve a great deal of credit for being on top of this," said McCusker.

The \$96,000 slated for the update to the town's emergency response communication system, said police, will in part be used to purchase new equipment, including new mobile telecommunications equipment.

"This money will better assist in protecting the lives and property of people in Clinton," said Simmons. ■

PROACTIVE MAILINGS AND PRESS CLIPS

MEMBER: ROB SIMMONS (CT-02)
STAFF CONTACT: JOHN GOODWIN

PREPARATION

Who is involved?

DC Staff

Are any outside groups involved?

No

Timeframe for preparation:

Mailings can be generated and prepared for delivery on the same day that positive press appears in the newspaper.

Press Component

What went into your press plan for the event?

The objective is to ensure that positive press coverage reaches the widest possible audience. Diligence is required in constantly pitching positive stories to the press. Don't ignore local, weekly papers, which often will print stories about grant and earmark announcements. Through proactive mailings, these stories can be brought directly to the mailboxes of voters.

Other Important Information:

How often do you hold this event?

As frequently as relevant positive news articles appear.

Other important tips for someone planning an event like this:

- Keep a current constituent mail database organized by views on particular issues (i.e. tax cut supporters, war opponents, advocates for a particular earmark).

- When a new development arises regarding that issue (signing on to a bill, passage of legislation, grant announcement) send a proactive mailing to the list of people likely to be pleased by the news and impressed by the Congressman's role in making it happen.

- Include a short letter from the Congressman introducing the attached news article. Because the account of the Congressman's positive work is written by an unbiased, third party source, it will likely have a greater impact on the reader.